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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-00 AOS-00 AID-07 INR-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
EO-15 NEA-06 NSAE-00 MA-06 PA-01 AGR-01 ICAE-00
SR-04 SPRS-02 /072 U
-----003201 150315Z /60

R 150245Z FEB 62
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1346
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL POUCH
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ISLAMABAD, 02226

ROME FOR FODAG

DEPT PASS ALSO TO AID/U

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 2/14/62 (KING, B.) OR-N
TAGS: SREF, EAID, WFP, UNHCR, PK
SUBJECT: (U) NMFP AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM UPDATE
REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 18253 (NOTAL)

1. (U) FOLLOWING REPORT REFLECTS THREE-DAY TOUR OF
REFUGEE CAMPS IN PAKISTAN'S NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE
(NMFP) PRECEDED AND FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS WITH
SENIOR UN AND GOP RELIEF OFFICIALS.

2. (C) SUMMARY. AS WE HAVE REPORTED ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS, RELIEF ADMINISTRATION AND UNHCR CONTINUE TO
COPE WITH AFGHAN REFUGEE PROBLEMS: SHEAT, SUGAR, BASIC
MEDICAL SERVICES, AND PERIODIC CASH PAYMENTS ARE BEING
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PROVIDED THE REFUGEES. UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS

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OF "MASSIVE" CORRUPTION AND DIVERSION OF RELIEF GOODS PERSIST, BUT EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD TO SEARCH HARD TO FIND EVEN SMALL QUANTITY OF USG-DONATED OSH IN MWFP CITY MARKETS. GOP MAINTAINS EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY, BUT THERE IS CONCERN AMONG UN OFFICIALS ABOUT ROLE OF AND GOP'S RELIANCE UPON MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALIST POLITICAL PARTIES IN ADMINISTRATION OF RELIEF EFFORT. TENSIONS BETWEEN REFUGEES AND LOCALS HAVE NOT, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, ERUPTED INTO VIOLENCE, AND REFUGEES ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED MORE WIDELY AROUND MWFP AS GOP BEGINS TO FOCUS ON LONGER TERM IMPLICATION OF MANAGING REFUGEE INFLUX.

3. (C) SERIOUS PROBLEMS DO, HOWEVER, CONFRONT THE PROGRAM OF WHICH THE "NUMBERS ISSUE" IS PERHAPS THE MOST PROMINENT. GOP FIGURES INDICATING 2.18 MILLION REFUGEES (IN MWFP ARE CERTAINLY INFLATED AS ARE THOSE OF WFP, WHICH CLAIMS TO HAVE FED OVER 1.7 MILLION IN MWFP IN DECEMBER. RECENT GOP RE-ENUMERATION EFFORTS HAVE BEEN AT MOST ONLY MIXED SUCCESSSES AS POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS COMBINE TO REDUCE GOP'S WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO PRODUCE ACCURATE DATA. IN GENERAL, THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IS UNDERSTAFFED, ESPECIALLY THE WFP MONITORING EFFORT, LIMITING THE ABILITY OF UN AND GOP REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL TO CONTROL REGISTRATION ABUSES AND OTHER MIS-ALLOCATION OF REFUGEE PROGRAM RESOURCES. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT OF PROVIDING LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH ENOUGH GOODS AND SERVICES TO OFFSET BURDENS IMPOSED BY PRESENCE OF THE REFUGEES ESPECIALLY OVER THE LONG-HAUL; IN THIS REGARD, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MWFP, SUCH AS TUBE WELLS AND REFORESTATION, WILL NEED TO BE EXPANDED. END SUMMARY.

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4. (C) HOW MANY REFUGEES? ACCORDING TO MWFP REFUGEE COMMISSIONER ABDULLAH, LATEST GOP FIGURES, NOT YET RELEASED, WILL SHOW 2.18 MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES IN MWFP. THE BIGGEST CONCENTRATION OF REFUGEES IS IN RECENTLY SETTLED HAZARA DISTRICT, ESPECIALLY AROUND HARIPUR, WHICH CONTAINS, ACCORDING TO GOP DATA, OVER 250,000 REFUGEES. ABDULLAH STATTHAT REFUGEE NUMBERS WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS THE FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN INTENSIFIED. ABDULLAH, WHO HAD OPPOSED THE RE-ENUMERATION EFFORT (REFTEL) HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SELLING "POLITICALLY

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